

Boone County Republican Committee

10/6/98

10/10/98

F. Andrew Turley
Supervisory Attorney
Central Enforcement Docket
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

RE: MUR 4813

Dear Mr. Turley

Although I am not the Treasurer of the Boone County Republican Committee, as Chairman I feel that it is my responsibility to respond to the complaint filed by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Since I am not an attorney and we do not have an attorney on retainer, I will try to answer each of the allegations as they are addressed in the complaint forwarded to me on this date.

First, let me assure you that the Boone County Republican Committee raised all funds contributed to candidates locally by way of dinners, garage sales & other local fund raising events. The Arkansas Republican Party contributed absolutely no campaign contributions to our fund raising efforts. In addition, our committee received no direction as to how, when or to whom we should contribute. As we operate as independent entities, the committee would not respond favorably even if such an effort were to be undertaken.

The complaint also takes issue with the timing of the contributions, stating that "One need look no further than the timing of the contributions to conclude that this flurry of excessive giving had been made in concert with the Arkansas Republican Party". This statement demonstrates how little effort was expended investigating the facts of this issue prior to the filing of this complaint. The Arkansas primary election was held in May of this year. Boone County Republican Committee members stood for election at that time. In mid June we held our County Convention and the first meeting of the new County Committee. Mr. Boozman, the winner of the republican primary election for the republican candidate's position for US Senator, through a campaign representative made his request for a contribution at this meeting. The committee decided in the affirmative at that time. Our County by-laws also require an audit of the committee

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books after the convention. It was my decision to wait until that audit was sufficiently complete so as to allow committee expenditures. Our contribution to Mr. Boozman's campaign was made at the first practical opportunity following his nomination in the May primary election.

In closing I would like to reaffirm that the Boone County Republican Committee was not approached, coerced, intimidated or otherwise directed to contribute to Mr. Boozman's campaign by the Arkansas Republican Party. Further all funds contributed by the Boone County Committee were raised entirely by the committee and our contribution to Mr. Boozman was made at the first practical opportunity following his primary victory. I should note that I observed that the Boone County Republican Women were also included in this complaint. Although I may not respond for their organization, I would like to advise the commission that the Boone County Republican Women do not answer to or take direction from the Committee, nor do they tolerate interference in their activities. I became aware of their contribution when I met with Mrs. Boozman on June 30, 1998, in Harrison to pass on our committee's contribution.

If you should need further information to clarify this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely



George Leese
Chairman
Boone County Republican Committee